

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 3, 2008. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 11-35 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 11-23 are being amended.

All amendments to the application are fully supported therein, including paragraph [0058] of the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Interview Summary

The telephonic interview was conducted with the Examiner Sigmund N. Tang on January 5, 2009. The Examiner admitted that the features recited in claim 11 and 23 as amended appear to be distinguishable from Moroto. However, he would need to conduct a further search to determine the allowability of claims 11-35.

Prior Art Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Claims 11-13, 20, 21, 23-25, 32, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moroto et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,121,326). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

According to the M.P.E.P. §2131, a claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a), (b), and (e) only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

Claims 11, 23

In a method as recited in claims 11 and 23, the roads including the guide route, main road and a branch road are given priorities in that order in the road map. The priorities of a road or roads on the guide route and crossing roads intersecting with the guide route in the main road and the branch roads are changed in accordance with a dynamic change in the

guide route and the crossing roads existing in an area displayed in the summarized map due to a change in the present position of the vehicle. The summarized map is prepared by selecting at least one road on the guide route and at least one road of the crossing roads from the roads based on the changed priorities.

The guide route in a display area of a display means is dynamically changed in accordance with an area in which the vehicle is present and a running speed of the vehicle. Thus, the priorities of road or roads on the guide route and crossing roads intersecting with the guide route in the main road and the branch roads to be displayed in the summarized map should be dynamically changed in accordance with an area in which the vehicle is present and a running speed of the vehicle. For example, a road straightly connected to the direction of the vehicle's movement is displayed even if the priority of that road is lower. Therefore, in the method as recited in claims 11 and 23, the elements to be displayed on a display means can be selected in accordance with the priorities of roads on the basis of the types of roads and their connection with the guide route. Accordingly, a driver can easily recognize the guide route by seeing the display means in a short time.

In contrast, Moroto merely shows that a departure place, a destination, roads and etc. are selectively displayed in accordance with a scale ratio of a displayed map. The scaled ratio is set in conformity with the distance between a present position and the destination. In Moroto, the displayed roads are prepared beforehand in form of a table and ranked as national roads, prefectural roads, other roads or roads classified by number of lanes. In Moroto, the fixed ranks of roads are given in accordance with the kinds of roads. (See col. 5, lines 53-65, Figs. 3, 4(a)-(b).) Moroto says nothing about changing the ranks of the roads to be displayed in accordance with an area in which the vehicle is present and a running speed of the vehicle. More specifically, Moroto does not show or suggest changing the ranks or priorities of a road or roads on the guide route and crossing roads intersecting with the guide route in the main road and the branch roads in accordance with a dynamic change in the guide route and the crossing roads existing in an area displayed in the summarized map due to a change in the present position of the vehicle, and preparing the summarized map is prepared by selecting at least one road on the guide route and at least one road of the crossing roads from the roads based on the changed priorities.

Therefore, Moroto does not show every element recited in claims 11 and 23. Accordingly, claims 11 and 23 are not anticipated by Moroto.

Claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 24, 25, 32, 33

As to dependent claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 24, 25, 32, and 33, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claims 11 and 23 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 24, 25, 32, and 33 must also be allowable.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

Claims 14-18 and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Moroto in view of Katou et al, (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,161). Claims 22, 34, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Moroto in view of Katou, and further in view of Nakayama et al, (U.S. Pat. No. 5,732,385). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons set forth below.

As set forth above, Moroto fails to teach all the elements recited in claims 11 and 23, from which claims 14-18, 22, 26-29, 34, and 35 depend. Neither of Katou nor Nakayama provides any disclosure, teaching or suggestion that makes up for the deficiencies in Moroto. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art could not and would not have achieved all the features as recited in claim 11 and 23, from which claims 14-18, 22, 26-29, 34, and 35 depend, by combining Katou and/or Nakayama with Moroto.

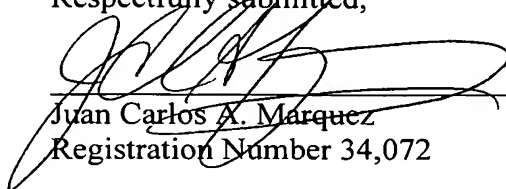
Accordingly, claims 14-18, 22, 26-29, 34, and 35 are not obvious in view of all the prior art cited.

Conclusion

In light of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action with regard to the present application, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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